

# BELMONT VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

## Minutes, December 6, 2011

Present: Tim Bowman, Sara Masucci, Wendy Rundle, Paul Solomon, Jane Feinberg-Kaplan, Doug John

Absent: Jennifer Page, Michael Sattler

- **Convening the Meeting:** Tim Bowman opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.
- **Minutes from 11/21/11:**
  - **Debrief of 11/21/11 Board of Selectmen Meeting:**
    - We agreed to provide BOS with ideas for future projects that they could reflect on. Create a roadmap of possible ideas
    - As a committee, we need to communicate more regularly with the Board and ensure that they are more connected to future Envision Belmont events
    - There was frustration on the Board's part that we were addressing budgets – something they are not sure we should be taking on
    - Need to be careful not to get into a situation where we are asking for permission, rather we should present our plans for comments/ suggestions
- 3 **Brainstorming ideas for next 12-18 months:**
  - Continue Meet Belmont
  - Continue to plan a fall forum event
  - Consider ideas from Ad hoc communications committee
    - 4 Annual event with changing topic based on citizen concerns
  - Envision Belmont
    - 4 We should think about date for fall event soon
    - 4 Need to engage Mark (BOS), Kevin (SC), and Mike Widmer in our discussions about future budget based forums
      - 4 If continuing to host budget events is met with resistance, should we step back?
      - 4 We should stay involved in this discussion, but we may need to back off a little if there are leaders working on this
    - 4 We are the “long term” thinkers on this topic as opposed to Town leaders who are engaged day to day in the process
      - 4 We can provide outside perspective; keep thread going with, at minimum, one annual budget forum
  - There can be value in taking some time to observe what's happening and propose a possible event/project based on what actually happens in the town
  - Who sets priorities for long-term projects in town?
    - 4 Capital budget committee?
    - 4 Capital budget project overlay?
    - 4 Who is listening to them?

- Town Meeting Member Association as way to keep thread of long term budget thinking in people's minds
  - 4 Could be way to focus attention/energy for a group of people who are involved
  - 4 Help educate Town Meeting Members about issues
  - 4 Where does a Town Meeting Member association come from? Who would propose it? Who would manage its initial development?
  - 4 Government Structure committee has recommended this
  - 4 This group could become a partnering organization for us
- Should we add a spring event
  - 4 Citizen engagement initiative?
    - 8 Citizen Academy
- Educational programs for the schools?
- Use vision statement as guide; perhaps choose certain points from vision to focus on each year
- How do we engage new leaders in town (Town Admin, Asst. Town Admin, Superintendent, Asst, Superintendent, new Selectman)
  - 4 Cultivate relationships early to engage them in discussion about how town works
- We should revisit the notes from our winter retreat
- Survey the town about priorities/concerns that we can report to BOS
  - 4 Take the pulse of the town
  - 4 Has been 10 years since vision statement
    - 4 The vision statement would not change
  - 4 Can give us a degree of validation for our process and projects
  - 4 Would we include questions about making choices? Ranking priorities?
    - 8 Connection to Kennedy School?
    - 8 As we invite people to meetings we should ask them what they would want to know from a survey
- If we think of the year in quarters:
  - 4 July- August- Meet Belmont
  - 4 September- December- Envision Belmont
  - 4 January- March- planning
  - 4 April- June-

## 8 Next Meetings:

- December 19 – planning focus about survey
  - 4 Tim will report about possible Kennedy school involvement
- Second January meeting- invite people to meeting to think about what we could ask on a survey?
  - 4 Liaisons?
- Meetings will return to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays starting January
- **Adjournment:** Tim Bowman adjourned the meeting at 8:36

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Masucci  
Secretary Pro Tempore